



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

Ecuadorian national indicted for transporting illegal aliens to Wisconsin to obtain fake identification documents

MILWAUKEE — A 43-year-old Ecuadorian man was indicted Tuesday for transporting illegal aliens from New Jersey to Wisconsin to obtain fraudulent Wisconsin identification documents. This case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Fernando Adame, an illegal alien, was indicted by a federal grand jury in the Eastern District of Wisconsin on one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to unlawfully use fraudulent identification documents, and two counts of transporting illegal aliens within the United States.

Adame was originally charged after being arrested by South Milwaukee police officers Feb. 22. In the criminal complaint and at a bond hearing, ICE agents alleged that in return for payment, Adame had transported illegal aliens from New Jersey to a Wisconsin Department of Transportation site so the aliens could obtain either a Wisconsin Driver's License or State Identification card. Because the illegal aliens were not Wisconsin residents, they were not eligible to obtain Wisconsin identification documents.

At the time of his arrest, Adame possessed blank Wisconsin license application forms, and completed forms showing that licenses or identification cards had been issued. Adame had also altered documents purporting to show that various illegal aliens were Wisconsin residents.

"ICE places a high priority on investigating identity fraud and document fraud cases," said Brian Falvey, resident agent-in-charge of the ICE Milwaukee office. "Counterfeit documents create the illusion of legitimacy and compromise the security of our nation."

If convicted of these offenses, Adame faces a sentence of up to five years on the first count, and 10 years on counts two and three.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Carol L. Kraft.

The public is cautioned that an indictment is a formal method for issuing charges and does not constitute evidence of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until such time as guilt is established by proof beyond a reasonable doubt. The public is further cautioned that an indictment alleges violations of law only by those charged in the indictment. An indictment does not allege wrongdoing, either explicitly or implicitly, against any other person.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.